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Summary Remarks September 15, 2004
Montana Criminal Justice Information Integration Conference

I have a few observations, a few words of wisdom, and a question to leave you with at the end of the conference.

First, the observations.

This has been a great day and a half. We have seen a lot of "Here is what we are doing" from both the state and local level. We have seen some "Here is how to _____" on subjects like integration, infrastructure, security, and grants. And we have heard some "Here is why this is a good idea." Montana has made a lot of progress with technology over the years, based on Karen's comments about what the system was like 22 years ago. Yet we all know that there is much more that must be done. I did notice that a lot of the things that are being done are still being done in silos. What is missing is the overall planning and coordination.

Now for the words of wisdom:

"Too much turf, not enough weed whacker."

"When the target is moving faster than the bullet, we will never get there."

"Ready, fire, aim."

"Make sure everything you are doing at the state and local level is taking you in the direction of your long term goals."

What is needed is leadership/governance, and strategic planning. Then everyone will know what the goals are.

And now the question.

We all need information, but are we willing to do what it takes to get it?